

That The World May Know – The Life and Ministry of the Messiah – Session 8: Living Water

God's Wonderful Gift of Living Water

1. The springs of En Gedi provide a vivid picture of God as living water. To what did God liken Himself?
 - Jeremiah 2:13; 17:13
2. To what did David compare his thirst for God?
 - Psalm 63:1
3. To what did the prophet Jeremiah compare a person who trusts in himself rather than in God?
 - Jeremiah 17:5 – 6
4. What did Jesus say about the “living water” He came to give?
 - John 4:13 – 14
5. At the end of the Sukkot, Jesus offered a bold invitation regarding living water. What did Jesus invite crowds of people to do?
 - John 7:37 – 39

What did Jesus promise to those who did that?

Whom did John say the living water symbolizes?

Living Water or Broken Cisterns? The Choice is Ours

1. Cisterns represent our own efforts and strength. In the language of Scripture, trying to live without God is like turning away from the gushing, cool springs of En Gedi to seek dirty water from broken cisterns. What was the condition of the Jews during their desert wanderings and what did God do for them?
 - Psalm 107:4 – 9
2. After they turned to God – their source of living water – what did He do for them?
3. Before the Israelites entered the Promised Land, what serious warning did God give to His people?
 - Deuteronomy 8:10 – 18
4. What two sins did God's people commit once they were settled in the Promised Land?
 - Jeremiah 2:13
5. What does Jeremiah 2:13 reveal about our own human tendencies?
6. What is the tragedy of turning away from God and depending upon our own cisterns?
 - Jeremiah 14:3 – 4
7. When a person spends time in God's “oasis” - praying, reading and meditating on the Bible, worshipping, obeying God – instead of trying to dig his own cistern, what is he compared to in Psalm 1:1 – 3?

Living in the Wilderness

As the Jews—God's chosen people—faced the scorching, dry wilderness, God responded to their needs. Using the desert metaphor to describe the struggles of life, and En Gedi with its freshwater springs to describe God's provision, we can say that God still meets the needs of His people in the wilderness of life.

1. How did God provide for the Hebrews as they wandered in the wilderness?
 - Psalm 105:37 – 41
2. What did God promise to do for the Hebrews if they faithfully obeyed His commands, loved Him, and served Him devotedly?
 - Deuteronomy 11:10 – 15
3. How should we respond to God?
 - Psalm 107:8 – 9
4. What does God promise to do for the poor and needy? Why?
 - Isaiah 41:17 – 20
5. What did Isaiah prophesy concerning the future of God's people and His eternal provision for them?
 - Isaiah 35:6 – 10

What beautiful image did Jeremiah use to describe a person who trusts in God and His provision?

 - Jeremiah 17:7 – 8
6. As God provides for us, what does He expect us to do?
 - John 7:38
 - Mark 9:41

Our God An Oasis in the Wilderness

1. Which imagery did Paul use to describe the Hebrews' source of spiritual "living water" that quenched their spiritual thirst?
 - 1 Corinthians 10:1 – 4
2. Life in the wilderness is often like being in the brutal heat of the sun. It dries us out, weakens us, and overheats us. What do the following verses reveal about God as our oasis?
 - Psalm 18:2
 - Psalm 61:1 – 4
 - Psalm 91:1 – 2
 - Psalm 121:5 - 8
 - Isaiah 25:4 - 5
3. The Word of God helps provide the refreshment and nourishment we need to survive the wilderness. Which images did the psalmist use to describe the Word of God?
 - Psalm 19:9 - 11
4. Living in the "wilderness" of culture is not without purpose. The wilderness is where we learn to depend on God, and it is where we are called to be witnesses for Him. As we live in the "wilderness" of our culture, what does God do for us?
 - Isaiah 58:11

What enables us to keep being effective for God while we are in the wilderness?

 - Jeremiah 17:5 – 8
5. When God finally establishes His heavenly kingdom, what does He promise to do for those who believe in Him?
 - Isaiah 35:6 – 7

References

Genesis 37	Proverbs 5
Leviticus 23	Nehemiah 8
Deuteronomy 8	Isaiah 25
Deuteronomy 11	Isaiah 35
1 Samuel 13	Isaiah 41
2 Kings 18	Isaiah 58
2 Chronicles 26	Jeremiah 2
Psalm 1	Jeremiah 14
Psalm 18	Jeremiah 17
Psalm 19	Jeremiah 38
Psalm 61	Jeremiah 41
Psalm 63	Mark 9
Psalm 78	John 4
Psalm 91	John 7
Psalm 105	1 Corinthians 10
Psalm 107	Revelation 21
Psalm 121	Revelation 22

Jesus did not come to improve your life, a little tweak here and a little tweak there. Jesus came to transplant a new way of thinking into your mind, a new way of living into your soul. Once we join Jesus and pursue God's vision for this world, everything changes. You will go places you never thought you would go.. You will ask God for what you need and trust God to provide. And you may find there is not as much need to worry.

Ephesians 4:1 – 6: As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

A Reflection

Life is not so easy
As a Christian standing stone.

It's a barren wilderness,
You can't make it on your own.

For work to be a good thing
You must face the dusty heat.

But you're called to find some rest,
Gaining strength to not be beat.

Do not dig a cistern,
Letting pleasures get ahead.

For the water you need clean,
Will be stale and dry instead.

But the waters of En Gedi,
Are fresh and flow with life.

So find the Lord in prayer,
Quench your thirst, and end your strife.

Oh, En Gedi, taking refuge in the Lord,
En Gedi, letting Jesus' words reward.

Drinking living water,
Resting in the shade.

Finding all the comfort,
To never be afraid.

En Gedi, a quiet peace with God.

—Ben Lappenga